

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 518

To establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial
Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2009

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REED, Mr. CASEY, and Mr.
LEVIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812
Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Star-Spangled Banner
5 and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) the War of 1812 served as a crucial test for
9 the United States Constitution and the newly estab-
10 lished democratic Government;

1 (2) vast regions of the new multi-party democ-
2 racy, including the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of
3 Mexico and the Niagara Frontier, were affected by
4 the War of 1812 including the States of Alabama,
5 Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illi-
6 nois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts,
7 Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi,
8 New Jersey, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New
9 York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island,
10 South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, Wis-
11 consin, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia;

12 (3) the British occupation of American territory
13 along the Great Lakes and in other regions, the
14 burning of Washington, DC, the American victories
15 at Fort McHenry, New Orleans, and Plattsburgh,
16 among other battles, had far reaching effects on
17 American society;

18 (4) at the Battle of Baltimore, Francis Scott
19 Key wrote the poem that celebrated the flag and
20 later was titled “the Star-Spangled Banner”;

21 (5) the poem led to the establishment of the
22 flag as an American icon and became the words of
23 the national anthem of the United States in 1932;
24 and

1 (6) it is in the national interest to provide for
2 appropriate commemorative activities to maximize
3 public understanding of the meaning of the War of
4 1812 in the history of the United States.

5 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

6 (1) establish the Star-Spangled Banner and
7 War of 1812 Commemoration Commission;

8 (2) ensure a suitable national observance of the
9 War of 1812 by complementing, cooperating with,
10 and providing assistance to the programs and activi-
11 ties of the various States involved in the commemo-
12 ration;

13 (3) encourage War of 1812 observances that
14 provide an excellent visitor experience and beneficial
15 interaction between visitors and the natural and cul-
16 tural resources of the various War of 1812 sites;

17 (4) facilitate international involvement in the
18 War of 1812 observances;

19 (5) support and facilitate marketing efforts for
20 a commemorative coin, stamp, and related activities
21 for the War of 1812 observances; and

22 (6) promote the protection of War of 1812 re-
23 sources and assist in the appropriate development of
24 heritage tourism and economic benefits to the
25 United States.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **COMMEMORATION.**—The term “commemo-
4 ration” means the commemoration of the War of
5 1812.

6 (2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission”
7 means the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812
8 Bicentennial Commission established in section 4(a).

9 (3) **QUALIFIED CITIZEN.**—The term “qualified
10 citizen” means a citizen of the United States with
11 an interest in, support for, and expertise appropriate
12 to the commemoration.

13 (4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of the Interior.

15 (5) **STATES.**—The term “States”—

16 (A) means the States of Alabama, Ken-
17 tucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Vermont,
18 Virginia, New York, Maine, Michigan, Ohio,
19 Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island; and

20 (B) includes agencies and entities of each
21 State.

22 **SEC. 4. STAR-SPANGLED BANNER AND WAR OF 1812 COM-**
23 **MEMORATION COMMISSION.**

24 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established a commission
25 to be known as the “Star-Spangled Banner and War of
26 1812 Bicentennial Commission”.

1 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
3 composed of 24 members, of whom—

4 (A) 13 members shall be qualified citizens
5 appointed by the Secretary after consideration
6 of nominations submitted by the Governors of
7 Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine,
8 Maryland, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsyl-
9 vania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia;

10 (B) 3 members shall be qualified citizens
11 appointed by the Secretary after consideration
12 of nominations submitted by the Mayors of the
13 District of Columbia, the City of Baltimore, and
14 the City of New Orleans;

15 (C) 2 members shall be employees of the
16 National Park Service, of whom—

17 (i) 1 shall be the Director of the Na-
18 tional Park Service (or a designee); and

19 (ii) 1 shall be an employee of the Na-
20 tional Park Service having experience rel-
21 evant to the commemoration;

22 (D) 4 members shall be qualified citizens
23 appointed by the Secretary with consideration
24 of recommendations—

1 (i) 1 of which are submitted by the
2 majority leader of the Senate;

3 (ii) 1 of which are submitted by the
4 minority leader of the Senate;

5 (iii) 1 of which are submitted by the
6 majority leader of the House of Represent-
7 atives; and

8 (iv) 1 of which are submitted by the
9 minority leader of the House of Represent-
10 atives; and

11 (E) 2 members shall be appointed by the
12 Secretary from among individuals with exper-
13 tise in the history of the War of 1812.

14 (2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appoint-
15 ment of a member of the Commission shall be made
16 not later than 120 days after the date of enactment
17 of this Act.

18 (c) TERM; VACANCIES.—

19 (1) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for
20 the life of the Commission.

21 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commis-
22 sion—

23 (A) shall not affect the powers of the Com-
24 mission; and

1 (B) shall be filled in the same manner as
 2 the original appointment was made.

3 (d) VOTING.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall act
 5 only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the
 6 members of the Commission.

7 (2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
 8 the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

9 (e) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

10 (1) SELECTION.—The Commission shall select
 11 a chairperson and a vice chairperson from among
 12 the members of the Commission.

13 (2) ABSENCE OF CHAIRPERSON.—The vice
 14 chairperson shall act as chairperson in the absence
 15 of the chairperson.

16 (f) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after
 17 the date on which all members of the Commission have
 18 been appointed and funds have been provided, the Com-
 19 mission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

20 (g) MEETINGS.—Not less than twice a year, the Com-
 21 mission shall meet at the call of the chairperson or a ma-
 22 jority of the members of the Commission.

23 (h) REMOVAL.—Any member who fails to attend 3
 24 successive meetings of the Commission or who otherwise
 25 fails to participate substantively in the work of the Com-

1 mission may be removed by the Secretary and the vacancy
2 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appoint-
3 ment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the
4 Secretary.

5 **SEC. 5. DUTIES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

7 (1) plan, encourage, develop, execute, and co-
8 ordinate programs, observances, and activities com-
9 memorating the historic events that preceded and
10 are associated with the War of 1812;

11 (2) facilitate the commemoration throughout
12 the United States and internationally;

13 (3) coordinate the activities of the Commission
14 with State commemoration commissions, the Na-
15 tional Park Service, the Department of Defense, and
16 other appropriate Federal agencies;

17 (4) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, edu-
18 cational, religious, economic, tourism, and other or-
19 ganizations throughout the United States to orga-
20 nize and participate in the commemoration to ex-
21 pand the understanding and appreciation of the sig-
22 nificance of the War of 1812;

23 (5) provide technical assistance to States, local-
24 ities, units of the National Park System, and non-

1 profit organizations to further the commemoration
2 and commemorative events;

3 (6) coordinate and facilitate scholarly research
4 on, publication about, and interpretation of the peo-
5 ple and events associated with the War of 1812;

6 (7) design, develop, and provide for the mainte-
7 nance of an exhibit that will travel throughout the
8 United States during the commemoration period to
9 interpret events of the War of 1812 for the edu-
10 cational benefit of the citizens of the United States;

11 (8) ensure that War of 1812 commemorations
12 provide a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit
13 leading to protection of the natural and cultural re-
14 sources associated with the War of 1812; and

15 (9) examine and review essential facilities and
16 infrastructure at War of 1812 sites and identify pos-
17 sible improvements that could be made to enhance
18 and maximize visitor experience at the sites.

19 (b) STRATEGIC PLAN; ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
20 PLANS.—The Commission shall prepare a strategic plan
21 and annual performance plans for any activity carried out
22 by the Commission under this Act.

23 (c) REPORTS.—

24 (1) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Commission shall
25 submit to Congress an annual report that contains

1 a list of each gift, bequest, or devise to the Commis-
2 sion with a value of more than \$250, together with
3 the identity of the donor of each gift, bequest, or de-
4 vise.

5 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September
6 30, 2015, the Commission shall submit to the Sec-
7 retary and Congress a final report that includes—

8 (A) a summary of the activities of the
9 Commission;

10 (B) a final accounting of any funds re-
11 ceived or expended by the Commission; and

12 (C) the final disposition of any historically
13 significant items acquired by the Commission
14 and other properties not previously reported.

15 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

17 (1) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts or
18 donations of money, services, and real and personal
19 property related to the commemoration in accord-
20 ance with Department of the Interior and National
21 Park Service written standards for accepting gifts
22 from outside sources;

23 (2) appoint such advisory committees as the
24 Commission determines to be necessary to carry out
25 this Act;

1 (3) authorize any member or employee of the
2 Commission to take any action the Commission is
3 authorized to take under this Act;

4 (4) use the United States mails in the same
5 manner and under the same conditions as other
6 agencies of the Federal Government; and

7 (5) make grants to communities, nonprofit,
8 commemorative commissions or organizations, and
9 research and scholarly organizations to develop pro-
10 grams and products to assist in researching, pub-
11 lishing, marketing, and distributing information re-
12 lating to the commemoration.

13 (b) LEGAL AGREEMENTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this Act, the
15 Commission may—

16 (A) procure supplies, services, and prop-
17 erty; and

18 (B) make or enter into contracts, leases, or
19 other legal agreements.

20 (2) LENGTH.—Any contract, lease, or other
21 legal agreement made or entered into by the Com-
22 mission shall not extend beyond the date of termi-
23 nation of the Commission.

24 (c) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure
 2 directly from a Federal agency such information as
 3 the Commission considers necessary to carry out this
 4 Act.

5 (2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—On request
 6 of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of
 7 the agency shall provide the information to the Com-
 8 mission in accordance with applicable laws.

9 (d) FACA NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 14(b) of the
 10 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not
 11 apply to the Commission.

12 (e) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this
 13 Act supersedes the authority of the States or the National
 14 Park Service concerning the commemoration.

15 **SEC. 7. PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

16 (a) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-
 18 section (c)(1)(A), a member of the Commission shall
 19 serve without compensation.

20 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
 21 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
 22 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-
 23 ized for an employee of an agency under subchapter
 24 I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
 25 away from the home or regular place of business of

1 the member in the performance of the duties of the
2 Commission.

3 (3) STATUS.—A member of the Commission,
4 who is not otherwise a Federal employee, shall be
5 considered a Federal employee only for purposes of
6 the provisions of law related to ethics, conflicts of in-
7 terest, corruption, and any other criminal or civil
8 statute or regulation governing the conduct of Fed-
9 eral employees.

10 (b) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OTHER STAFF.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the
12 Commission may, without regard to the provisions of
13 title 5, United States Code, governing appointments
14 in the competitive service and termination of employ-
15 ees (including regulations), appoint and terminate
16 an executive director, subject to confirmation by the
17 Commission, and appoint and terminate such other
18 additional personnel as are necessary to enable the
19 Commission to perform the duties of the Commis-
20 sion.

21 (2) STATUS.—The Executive Director and other
22 staff appointed under this subsection shall be consid-
23 ered Federal employees under section 2105 of title
24 5, United States Code, notwithstanding the require-
25 ments of such section.

1 (3) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIREC-
 2 TOR.—The employment of an executive director shall
 3 be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

4 (4) COMPENSATION.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
 6 subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Com-
 7 mission may fix the compensation of the execu-
 8 tive director and other personnel without regard
 9 to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter
 10 III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code,
 11 relating to classification of positions and Gen-
 12 eral Schedule pay rates.

13 (B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of
 14 basic pay for the executive director and other
 15 personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for
 16 level V of the Executive Schedule under section
 17 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

18 (c) GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

19 (1) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

20 (A) SERVICE ON COMMISSION.—A member
 21 of the Commission who is an officer or em-
 22 ployee of the Federal Government shall serve
 23 without compensation in addition to the com-
 24 pensation received for the services of the mem-

1 ber as an officer or employee of the Federal
2 Government.

3 (B) DETAIL.—At the request of the Com-
4 mission, the head of any Federal agency may
5 detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable
6 basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the
7 Commission to assist the Commission in car-
8 rying out the duties of the Commission under
9 this Act.

10 (C) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—Notwith-
11 standing any other provisions in this section,
12 Federal employees who serve on the Commis-
13 sion, are detailed to the Commission, or other-
14 wise provide services under the Act, shall con-
15 tinue to be Federal employees for the purpose
16 of any law specific to Federal employees, with-
17 out interruption or loss of civil service status or
18 privilege.

19 (2) STATE EMPLOYEES.—The Commission
20 may—

21 (A) accept the services of personnel de-
22 tailed from States (including subdivisions of
23 States) under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of
24 title 5, United States Code; and

1 (B) reimburse States for services of de-
2 tailed personnel.

3 (d) MEMBERS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Mem-
4 bers of advisory committees appointed under section
5 6(a)(2)—

6 (1) shall not be considered employees of the
7 Federal Government by reason of service on the
8 committees for the purpose of any law specific to
9 Federal employees, except for the purposes of chap-
10 ter 11 of title 18, United States Code, relating to
11 conflicts of interest; and

12 (2) may be paid travel expenses, including per
13 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for
14 an employee of an agency under subchapter I of
15 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
16 away from the home or regular place of business of
17 the member in the performance of the duties of the
18 committee.

19 (e) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—
20 Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States
21 Code, the Commission may accept and use such voluntary
22 and uncompensated services as the Commission deter-
23 mines necessary.

24 (f) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Director of the Na-
25 tional Park Service shall provide to the Commission, on

1 a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services
2 as the Commission may request.

3 (g) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-**
4 **TENT SERVICES.**—The Chairperson of the Commission
5 may employ experts and consultants on a temporary or
6 intermittent basis in accordance with section 3109(b) of
7 title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that
8 do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of
9 basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule
10 under section 5316 of that title. Such personnel shall be
11 considered Federal employees under section 2105 of title
12 5, United States Code, notwithstanding the requirements
13 of such section.

14 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appro-
16 priated to carry out this Act not to exceed \$500,000 for
17 each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015.

18 (b) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Amounts appro-
19 priated under this section for any fiscal year shall remain
20 available until December 31, 2015.

21 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.**

22 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall terminate
23 on December 31, 2015.

24 (b) **TRANSFER OF MATERIALS.**—Not later than the
25 date of termination, the Commission shall transfer any

1 documents, materials, books, manuscripts, miscellaneous
2 printed matter, memorabilia, relics, exhibits, and any ma-
3 terials donated to the Commission that relate to the War
4 of 1812, to Fort McHenry National Monument and His-
5 toric Shrine.

6 (c) DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.—Any funds held by the
7 Commission on the date of termination shall be deposited
8 in the general fund of the Treasury.

